

PENDING CLAIMS AND STATUS THEREOF

1. (Currently Amended) A disposable downhole tool, comprising: an elongated body; a compression element ~~disposed~~ situated about the elongated body; and at least one preconfigured division in the compression element at disposal of the disposable downhole tool.
2. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 1 wherein the compression element at disposal of the disposable downhole tool comprises a plurality of preconfigured divisions segmenting the compression element into a plurality of segments.
3. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 2 wherein the segments are substantially uniform in size.
4. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 2 wherein the segments are substantially uniform in shape.
5. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 2 wherein the compression element comprises an elastomer.
6. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 5 wherein the elastomer has a shore durometer A scale hardness between about 40 and about 95.
7. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 2 wherein the preconfigured divisions are at least partly formed downhole in response to at least one segmenting event.
8. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 7 wherein the segmenting event comprises compression of the compression element.
9. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 7 wherein the segmenting event comprises setting of the disposable downhole tool in a wellbore.
10. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 7 wherein the segmenting event comprises releasing of the disposable downhole tool in a wellbore.
11. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 7 wherein the segmenting event comprises release of the compression element from a compression state.
12. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 7 wherein the segmenting event comprises destruction of one or more substantial structural parts of the disposable downhole tool in a wellbore.
13. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 2 wherein the preconfigured divisions are at least partially formed prior to deployment of the disposable downhole tool in a wellbore.
14. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 2 wherein the segments are configured to sink in a wellbore.
15. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 2 wherein the segments are configured to rise in a wellbore.
16. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 2 wherein the preconfigured divisions are substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the disposable downhole tool.
17. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 2 wherein the preconfigured divisions segment the compression element into three or more segments.
18. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 2 wherein the preconfigured divisions at least substantially segment the compression element into the plurality of segments prior to deployment of the disposable downhole tool in a wellbore, and further comprising a retainer to retain the segments in place about the elongated body while positioning the disposable downhole tool in a wellbore.
19. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 18 wherein the retainer comprises an o-ring.

20. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 19 wherein the o-ring is external to the compression element.
21. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 18 wherein the retainer comprises a fracturable constraint.
22. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 2 wherein: the preconfigured divisions at least substantially segment the compression element into a plurality of segments prior to deployment of the disposable downhole tool in a wellbore; and the plurality of segments are held together with an adhesive prior to deployment of the disposable downhole tool in the wellbore.
23. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 2 wherein: the preconfigured divisions at least substantially segment the compression element into a plurality of segments prior to deployment of the disposable downhole tool in a wellbore; and the plurality of segments are held together by an interlocking geometry prior to deployment of the disposable downhole tool in the wellbore.
24. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of compression elements, wherein each compression element has at least one preconfigured division at disposal of the disposable downhole tool.
25. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 24 wherein the preconfigured division of a first compression element is offset from the preconfigured division of an adjacent second compression element.
26. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 1 wherein the compression element is at least part of a sealing element of the disposable downhole tool.
27. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 1 wherein the disposable downhole tool comprises a disposable well plug.
28. (Currently Amended) A disposable downhole tool, comprising: an elongated cylindrical body; and an external sealing element ~~disposed~~ situated about the elongated cylindrical body, wherein the external sealing element comprises a plurality of sealing rings each presegmented into a plurality of segments.
29. (Original) A disposable downhole tool, comprising: a body; and a compression element coupled about the body, wherein the compression element is preconfigured at predefined locations for segmentation into a plurality of segments for disposal of the downhole tool in a wellbore.
30. (Currently Amended) The disposable downhole tool of claim 29 wherein the compression element comprises a sealing ring ~~disposed~~ situated about the body.
31. (Original) The disposable downhole tool of claim 29 wherein the disposable downhole tool comprises a disposable well plug.
32. (Original) A method for disposing of a downhole tool, comprising the steps of: deploying the downhole tool in a wellbore; setting the downhole tool in the wellbore; releasing the downhole tool in the wellbore; and segmenting a compression element of the downhole tool to aid disposal of the downhole tool in the wellbore.
33. (Original) The method of claim 32 further comprising the step of segmenting the compression element of the downhole tool in response to at least a downhole event.
34. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein the compression element of the downhole tool is at least substantially presegmented prior to deployment of the downhole tool in the wellbore.

35. (Original) The method of claim 32 further comprising the step of segmenting the compression element of the downhole tool in connection with setting the downhole tool in the wellbore.
36. (Original) The method of claim 32 further comprising the step of segmenting the compression element of the downhole tool in connection with releasing the downhole tool in the wellbore.
37. (Original) The method of claim 32 further comprising the step of segmenting the compression element of the downhole tool into a plurality of segments.
38. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein the compression element comprises at least part of a sealing element of the downhole tool.